

ON BEING ORTHODOX

I. The Christian world

A. West

- 1. Roman Catholic**
- 2. Protestant**
 - a. approximately 6,000 denominations in the U.S.**

B. East

- 1. Greater/Chalcedonian Orthodox**
 - a. Greek, Serbian, Russian, Antiochian, etc.**
- 2. Lesser/non-Chalcedonian**
 - a. Armenian**
 - b. Assyrian**
 - c. Coptic**
 - d. Ethiopian**
 - e. Indian**

C. Chalcedonian/non-Chalcedonian

- 1. nature of Christ**
- 2. Chalcedonian – IN 2 natures**
- 3. Non-Chalcedonian – OF 2 natures**

D. We are non-Chalcedonian

- 1. Jesus Christ is God become man, completely and perfectly**
- 2. One united nature of the Word Incarnate**

II. Origin and Development

A. Jesus Christ Established ONE Church

B. Matthew 16:13-19

C. That Church was taken to various parts of the known world

- 1. St. Thaddeus – Armenia, Syria, northern Iraq**
- 2. St. Bartholomew – Armenia, Arabia, Persia**
- 3. St. Peter – Rome**
- 4. St. Andrew – Northern Greece, Epirus and Sythia**
- 5. St. John – Asia Minor**
- 6. St. James the Major – Jerusalem**
- 7. St. Matthew – Persia and Parthia**
- 8. St. Thomas – South India [Malabar]**
- 9. St. Philip – Asia Minor**
- 10. St. Simon the Zealot – North Africa and Persia**
- 11. St. James the Lesser – Palestine and Egypt**
- 12. St. Matthias [chosen to replace Judas] – Ethiopia**

- D. Apostolic Succession**
 - 1. Acts 1:23-26
 - 2. Acts 6:1-6
 - 3. 1 Timothy 4:14
 - 4. Present Catholicos Karekin II
 - a. 142nd successor to St. Thaddeus and St. Bartholomew
- E. We either belong to that Church or we don't**

III. Worship

- A. Luke 24:28-32**
- B. Revelation 4:8-11**
- C. Revelation 8:1-4**
- D. Didache – ch. 14**
- E. All worship is Christ-centered**
 - 1. everything points to receiving Jesus Christ in Holy Communion
 - 2. Holy Communion is the high/central point of worship
- F. Not sermon centered**

IV. Officers

- A. 1 Timothy 3:1-13**
- B. 1 Peter 5:1-5**
- C. Deacon**
- D. Priest/Elder**
- E. Bishop**

V. Vestments

- A. Exodus 28:1-43**
- B. Romans 13:12**
- C. 2 Corinthians 6:7**
- D. Ephesians 6:11-13**

VI. Sacraments

- A. Baptism – Matt. 28:18-20; John 3:1-8; Titus 3:3-7**
- B. Chrismation – Eph. 1:13; Eph. 4:30**
- C. Penance/Confession – John 20:21-23; Matt. 16:19; Matt. 18:18; 1 John 1:8-10**
- D. Holy Communion – Matt. 26:26-28; Mark 14:22-24; Luke 22:19-20; Luke 24:28-32; John 6:35-59; 1 Cor. 11:23-26**
- E. Matrimony – Matt. 19:4-6; John 2:1-11**
- F. Holy Orders/Ordination – John 15:16; Acts 1:21-26; Acts 6:1-6**
- G. Prayers for the Sick – James 5:14-15**

- VII. Tradition**
 - A. 1 Thessalonians 2:15**
 - B. Totality of the Christian faith**
 - C. Passed from one generation to the next**

- VIII. Interpretation of the Bible**
 - A. In the totality of the Church**
 - B. 2 Peter 1:20-21**
 - C. Matthew 18:15-20**

- IX. Attitude toward St. Mary**
 - A. Luke 1:26-35**
 - B. Luke 1:44-55**
 - C. Asdvadzadzin = Birth-giver of God**
 - D. Model for the Church and for individual Christians**

- X. Orthodox Christians belong to the same Church which was established by Jesus Christ Himself**
 - A. Carried to the world by His own chosen Apostles**
 - B. Been in continuous, unbroken existence for over 2000 years**

- XI. Other Groups**
 - A. Lutherans – 1517 – Martin Luther**
 - B. Presbyterians – 1534 – John Calvin**
 - C. Baptists – 1609 – John Smith**
 - D. Methodists – 1735 – John Wesley**
 - E. Seventh Day Adventists – early 19th century – Millerites**
 - F. Pentecostals – 1901 – Charles Parham**
 - G. Jehovah's Witnesses – 1879 – Charles Taze**
 - H. Mormonism – 1830 – Joseph Smith**
 - I. Calvary Chapel – 1965 – Chuck Smith**

Outline prepared by
Rev. Fr. Vartan Archpriest Kasparian
May 27, 2008
St. Mary Armenian Church
Yettem, California